



MWR hosts basketball tournament

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks
MNC-I PAO

Camp Victory's first basketball tournament of the year kicked off with some rough and rowdy three-on-three action, Sunday.

Seventeen teams, made up of servicemembers and civilians from various sections, came to battle it out for the championship title. The teams had two shots at staying alive. After losing twice they were out of the running. In order to win, the teams had to make it to 12 points or be ahead at the end of 15 minutes.

Two teams, one ball and half a court were all that seemed to matter, at least for a few hours.

"We need things like this so we can get together and get our minds off of what's going on in the world," said Warren 'Platoon Daddy' Staples, one of the players from the team Chosen Few. "Little breaks like this make the work load that much easier to handle."

Even though the games were all about having fun and camaraderie the teams played as if everything was resting on the win.

"There is a lot of fight in these guys," said Robert Cook, the Morale Welfare and Recreation coordinator. "They will do whatever they need to to get to 12 points."

The first two games set the pace for the rest of the tournament. The Fuops took a flop against, Dem'Boys whose speed and fast paced no look passes gave them the 11-8 win.

"We came out fast and hard with our defense and slammed them," said Malcolm Turner, a Dem'Boys player. "A hard fast defense keeps them off their game and enables you to focus on your offense."

The day waned on but the players kept battling it out, every game more exciting than the last. One game was a complete blowout. The next a one point spread. As the evening began to cool off, the final heat of the competition fired up.

The final teams, The Double Deuce and Point-5, set up for the championship game just as the night set in.

The game started out point for point with both teams evenly matched in skill and tenacity. Point-5 took an early lead with Quincy Richardson laying up several

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Michael "Scoops" Toney, Fuops, cuts a hard corner in order to dribble past Antonio Freeman, Dem'Boys, putting one more point on the board during the three-on-three basketball tournament, here Sunday.

Team 15 finds permanent facility

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks
MNC-I PAO

Team 15, Joint Center for Operational Analysis, held a ribbon cutting ceremony in celebration of their first permanent facility at Camp Victory, Friday.

Team 15 supports Task Force Troy in counter improvised explosive device training and development, among many other operational analyses which keep the war fighters fighting.

Everyone involved in finding, facilitating and bringing Team 15's new building to operational status was invited so Col. Phillip R. Speake, team leader, Team 15 could honor them for their help.

Though the traditional red ribbon could not be found, yellow caution tape served as

an adequate replacement.

"As small as this ceremony may be, it should not discredit the fine work these men and women put in to bringing us back to operational status," said Speake.

Speake and his team were literally blown out of their old facility.

"Just last week the winds picked up and tore the roofs right off our trailers," said Speake. "We were in a pretty bad spot. With the roofs gone and the rain still coming, our equipment was going to be ruined fast."

With the help of fellow Soldiers and civilians they were able to move their equipment with minimal damage. Even after the storm, Team 15 had to weather a few more dark days, because now they had to find a new home.

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BASKETBALL

shots in a row, however neither team let up their pursuit of the title. There was never more than a one point lead.

With the last few seconds dwindling, and the score set at 11-11, Floyd Scott from the Double Deuce took his chances and put up a two-point shot winning the title 13-11.

"This was the first time we have gotten together. We just played hard and with heart and were able to pull it off," said Johnny Turner, the coach of Double Deuce. "It was good to see us older guys take out these young ones. The youngest player on the team is 29, just shows you that old school can still compete with the young pups."

With the first tournament of the year in the books, MWR will set up for their next fast paced competition, a five-on-five full court tournament.

"As long as people keep coming out for these events we will keep planning them," said Cook. "I know these guys are always down for a friendly game of basketball."

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Camp Victory Three-day forecast

Tuesday



Showers
High: 67 F
Low: 52 F

Wednesday



Showers
High: 67 F
Low: 46 F

Thursday



Partly Cloudy
High: 55 F
Low: 39 F

Chaplain's Corner

God in Action

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

What a picture: God in action! A world of existence and yet, maybe not! Darkness and interminable depth and water and more water, all were a part of God's creative act! Chaos seemed to reign – and yet over it all, "the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

From the very beginning, God was playing an active role in His creation. He was intimately involved in every aspect of what was taking place! God was there! God cared! God was concerned!

The problem is that we so often



**Chaplain (LTC) David Koch
Victory Chapel Chaplain**

see His actions as "past tense." He "was molding His creation," He "was involved," He "was there," He "was concerned." All too often we think God's actions stopped at the end of the Bible!

Well, God is still in the business of being God! He still involves Himself in our affairs! He intimately wants an

ardent relationship with us! His desire is for a strong poignant involvement with us! When you get angry, get mad, get blue, get sad and sorry, involve Him in your life! He wants you to know He cares for you!

God is right here, and right now! He hears your thoughts when you think them. He knows what you will say before you say it. He created you so carefully – with your wonderful strengths and chances to grow! He laughs with you. He cries with you. He wants you and Him to be buddies! He wants you to share with Him your feelings. He wants you to come to Him with everything!

But never forget, He is still God! Just as He created, He can destroy, too. It pretty much depends on you and how close do you want to get to Him. The closer you are, the safer you will be, and the less you will fear! I like this Scripture – it tells me God is near, and that's a good thing!

HOME

"After about a week of wheeling and dealing we were able to acquire this piece of real estate," said Speake.

As fortunate as they were to find this building, Speake admitted there was much work to be done. With the help of several different groups throughout Camp Victory the work load was cut in half and the building was operational in only a few days.

Groups such as the 77th Construction Corps, a civilian contracting company from Turkey, worked day and night to help in this effort.

"Berk and his men, they turned this sow's ear into a silk purse for us, we could not have done it without him," Speake said as he handed Berk Demir, the managing director of the 77th CC, a letter of commendation.

Other groups, like the International Telephone and Telegraph company, worked exceedingly long days drilling through 10-inch concrete walls to install all of the intranet connections. Bringing the building to operational status in only two days.

According to Speake, the quick turn around was necessary to enable his team to get back to full operational status and get them back in the fight.

"We have spent the last week or so getting this building ready on top of performing our regular duties, it gets quite tiresome after a while," said Speake.

The JCFOA has been in the war since the beginning, rotating teams every 90 days. These teams spend their time everywhere, from behind the walls to outside the wire, they are constantly working to make the war fighters life easier.

"Our job is to make sure the ones going outside the wire have



Col. Phillip R. Speake, second from right, members of Team 15 and those who assisted them in making their new facility habitable, prepare to cut the ribbon, officially opening the new building Friday.

everything they need," said Speake. "If it makes their load lighter, keeps them going longer or keeps them safe from roadside bombs, we are creating it or making it better."

Even though Speake admits that his teams mission is vital, he does not believe they are any more important than anyone else.

"This quick turn around didn't happen because we are more important than anyone else. It's simply a team effort," said Speake. "It's times like these when you realize there are some things you cannot do on your own and you learn the importance of teamwork."

Team 15 now has a constant facility that will allow them to constantly stay in the fight, and a reassurance in the phrase "one team, one fight."

SECURITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Safeguarding Personal Information

It's great to get mail from home, isn't it? All that news on what our loved ones are doing, how much they miss us, how many of them keep us in their thoughts and prayers...we should all enjoy the wonderful cards, letters, and packages. But what do you do with the envelopes, boxes, customs forms? All of these have your name and address and the return addresses of your family and friends. In this day and age of identity theft, we have to watch what personal information we discard. This combat zone is no exception. None of us want our identities stolen, and none of us want an evildoer to send official-looking correspondence to our loved ones proclaiming that we've been critically injured or worse (which happened during a previous tour). What to do? Destroy any evidence of the FROM and TO addressees, shred the envelopes, and shred the customs forms. Let's make it hard for the enemy!!

A TIP FROM THE MNC-I C2 SECURITY DIVISION



Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.
Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Service Noon
Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.
Episcopal 4 p.m.
Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.
Catholic Mass 8 p.m.
Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.
Eastern Orthodox services:

Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.
Confession 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

10K FUN RUN/WALK




MWR AREA 51
Feb. 19 2006
Show Time 6:30 am
Start Time 7:00 am




Free "T" shirt for the first 200 to complete the run
Sponsored by PROUDARMYPARENTS
Hosted by Sgt. 1ST Class Rumph 822-5115
Task Force 30th Medical Brigade Equal Opportunities Adviser

The enemy regularly changes his tactics.



Do you?



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SAFETY ALERT


HEADQUARTERS
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BAGHDAD (IRAQ)
APO AE 0942

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Explosives Safety: Claymore Mines Attached to US Vehicles

WARNING:
DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY TO SOLDIERS, OR DAMAGE TO ARMY EQUIPMENT WILL OCCUR IF THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MESSAGE ARE NOT FOLLOWED

Claymore Mines (M18A1) installed on MNC-I vehicles is strictly prohibited. A unit was observed illegally using a Claymore Mine as a standard TTP on the vehicle below. This method is forbidden! The M18A1 has a back-blast concussion area of 16 meters and a forward blast pattern of 250 Meters. This crew endangered untold numbers of their fellow Soldiers by this grossly unsafe action. Leaders will account for, adequately secure, properly utilize and employ explosive devices as doctrinally intended.



Note the Claymore mine zip tied to the bumper. The blasting cap installed in the mine and wired to the cab. Vehicle spotted in Service Members living Area.

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Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

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SAFETY ALERT

TF 30th MED BDE


presents

The African American/Black History Month Closing Luncheon

"Reaching Out to Youth: A Strategy for Excellence"

Location: NFL Room, Sports Oasis DFAC
Date & Time: Feb. 20, Noon - 1:30 pm

RSVP for all O6/CSM and above NLT Feb. 18
Contact Capt. Buenaventura @ 242-0283
lexia.buenaventura@iraq.centcom.mil



POC for more information is Sgt. 1st Class Rumph at 822-5115

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.
Don't be the OTHER driver!!

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson
MNC-I Command Info Chief: Sgt. 1st Class Laurence R. Lang
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